

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Summary: FY 2008-09
HB 5812 (H-1)



Analyst: Jan Wisniewski

				<i>Difference: House Appropriations Committee Recommendation From FY 2007-08 YTD</i>	
	FY 2007-08 YTD	FY 2008-09 Executive	FY 2008-09 House Appropriations Committee	FY 2008-09 Enacted	
IDG/IDT	\$1,680,900	\$1,681,200	\$1,681,200		\$300 0.0
Federal	56,187,500	57,538,200	57,538,200		1,350,700 2.4
Local	1,283,900	1,284,600	1,284,600		700 0.1
Private	1,463,300	1,463,700	1,463,700		400 0.0
Restricted	28,428,600	28,300,400	28,300,400		(128,200) (0.5)
GF/GP	40,386,500	40,120,600	40,337,900		(48,600) (0.1)
Gross	\$129,430,700	\$130,388,700	\$130,606,000		\$1,175,300 0.9
FTEs	1,022.0	992.0	992.0		(30.0) (3.0)

Note: FY 2007-08 figures reflect supplementals and Executive Order (EO) actions through February 7, 2008.

Overview

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is responsible for the training and administration of Army and Air National Guard forces, providing combat-ready military forces during times of national emergency, and performing civil relief operations under the command of the governor during state emergencies. The Department's budget includes administrative and maintenance costs associated with these responsibilities as well as several National Guard-related programs such as the Challenge Program and the National Guard Education Assistance Program. The Department has oversight over the following veterans-related programs: state-licensed nursing care at veterans homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette, grant funding to veterans service organizations, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

Major Budget Issues

Major Budget Changes From FY 2007-08 YTD Appropriations		FY 2007-08 YTD	House Appropriations Committee Change From YTD
1. War Veteran's Memorial Rehabilitation		Gross	\$0 \$100,000
House Subcommittee adds a new line in the Headquarters and Armories unit to fund the rehabilitation of the War Veteran's Memorial located on the state fairgrounds in Detroit. Corresponds with new boilerplate language in Sec. 305. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>		GF/GP	\$0 \$100,000
2. Veterans Service Organizations		Gross	\$3,912,300 \$117,300
House Subcommittee adds a 3% increase for the VSOs totaling \$117,300 GF/GP above the Exec. Rec. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>		GF/GP	\$3,912,300 \$117,300
3. Headquarters and Armories		Gross	\$10,742,500 \$88,300
Exec. Rec. adds \$200,000 GF/GP for utilities and grounds maintenance at the Joint Forces Headquarters and Baker - Olin Building. Also removes \$111,700 GF/GP and moves to the new Internal Audit Services line. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>		Federal	3,161,100 0
		Restricted	346,400 0
		GF/GP	\$7,235,000 \$88,300

<u>Major Budget Changes From FY 2007-08 YTD Appropriations</u>		<u>FY 2007-08 YTD</u>	<u>House Appropriations Committee Change From YTD</u>
4. Departmentwide Accounts - Vehicles and Equipment	Gross	\$1,660,100	\$400,000
Exec. Rec. adds \$400,000 in Federal funds for large vehicles and equipment purchases, such as dump trucks and graders, for use at Camp Grayling and Fort Custer. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>	Federal	1,266,100	400,000
	GF/GP	\$394,000	\$0
5. Federal Starbase Program Increase	Gross	\$957,000	\$815,000
Exec. Rec. adds authorization for technology training for 35 other Starbase program directors across the U. S. and Puerto Rico. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>	Federal	\$957,000	\$815,000
6. Human Resources Optimization and Consolidation	Gross	NA	(\$984,900)
Exec. Rec. reduces funds for human resources consolidation per Executive Order 2007-30. Also reduces 9.0 total FTE positions. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>	Federal	NA	(18,700)
	Restricted	NA	(136,900)
	GF/GP	NA	(\$829,300)
7. Economic Adjustments	Gross	NA	\$360,100
Exec. Rec. provides funding for employee economic adjustments; includes economic adjustments for Information Technology. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>	IDG	NA	300
	Federal	NA	155,000
	Private	NA	400
	Local	NA	700
	Restricted	NA	9,200
	GF/GP	NA	\$194,500
8. Military Retirement Cost of Living Increase	Gross	\$3,048,000	\$169,500
Exec. Rec. provides GF/GP for a federal cost of living increase. House Subcommittee concurs. <i>House Appropriations Committee concurs.</i>	GF/GP	\$3,048,000	\$169,500

Major Boilerplate Changes From FY 2007-08

Sec. 233. County Veteran's Counselor Incentives - New House Subcommittee Language

Provides legislative intent for creating incentives for all counties to fund at least one full-time veteran's counselor. *House Appropriations Committee concurs.*

Sec. 234. Veterans Federal Benefits Claims Status - New House Subcommittee Language

Provides legislative intent for assisting veterans with checking on their claims status either online or by telephone. *House Appropriations Committee concurs.*

Sec. 305. War Veteran's Memorial Rehabilitation - New House Subcommittee Language

Provides \$100,000 for the rehabilitation of the War Veteran's Memorial located on the state fairgrounds in Detroit. *House Appropriations Committee concurs.*

Sec. 207. Privatization

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for Department to report privatization plans to the appropriations subcommittees and the fiscal agencies. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 211. Reporting Requirement

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for receiving and retaining reports funded from appropriations in part 1 and for following federal guidelines and state laws regarding record retention. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 213. Armory Closures

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for Department to consult with the appropriations subcommittees regarding closure or consolidation of National Guard armories. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 214. State Military Cemeteries

Exec. Rec. deletes legislative intent to fund state military cemeteries in Crawford and Dickinson counties if funds are available. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 226. Disciplinary Action Prohibition

Exec. Rec. deletes prohibiting Department from taking disciplinary action against Department employees that communicate with the Legislature. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 227. Sale of Department Property

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for reporting to the appropriations subcommittees concerning the sale of any Department property. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 231. Policy Change Report

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for reporting policy changes for implementing legislation to the Legislature. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 301. Armory Rental Fees

Exec. Rec. deletes authorization for Department to charge rental and equipment usage fees for armory rentals. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 302(3). Challenge Program Low Income Participants

Exec. Rec. adds new language specifying that at least 75% of participants come from families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. House Subcommittee does not concur and does not include this new language. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 501(6). Veterans Service Organization Report

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for reporting to the appropriations subcommittees concerning suggestions for enhancing veterans' benefits counseling programs. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 601. Veterans' Home Appropriations

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for the use of appropriations for the two state veterans' homes for any purpose other than for veterans and veterans' families. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 602. Veterans' Home Reports

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for report containing census and financial information for the two homes to the appropriations subcommittees. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 604. Post and Posthumous Funds Spending Plan Report

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for Department to report within 30 days to the appropriations committees any plans to alter the spending plan for the post and posthumous funds by the board of managers of the two state veterans homes. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*

Sec. 704. Assistance to County Veterans Counselors

Exec. Rec. deletes requirement for the veterans' affairs directorate and the Veterans' Trust Fund administration to train county veterans counselors. House Subcommittee does not concur and retains current law. *House Appropriations Committee concurs with the Subcommittee.*